The Noble Fiſherman :

Or, *Robin Hood*'s Preferment.

Tune of, In Summer time.

IN Summer Time when Leaves grow green,
when they do grow both green and long,
Of a bold Outlaw call'd Robin Hood,
it is of him I ſing this Song.

When the Lilly leaf and the Cowſlip ſweet
both bud and ſpring with merry Cheer,
This Outlaw was weary of the Wood-ſide,
and a chaſing of the King's Deer.

The Fiſhermen brave more Money have,
than any Merchant two or three;
Therefore I will to Scarborough go,
That I a Fiſherman may be.

This outlaw call'd his merry Men all,
as they ſat under the green wood Tree;
If any of you have Gold to ſpend,
I pray you heartily ſpend it with me.

Now, quoth Robin Hood, I'll to Scarborough go,
it ſeems to be a very fine day;
Who took up his Inn at a widow woman's houſe,
hard by the waters gray;

Who aſked him, where wert thou born,
or tell me where thou doſt fare?

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I am a poor Fiſherman ſaid he then,
this day intrapped all in care.
VVhat is thy Name, thou fine fellow?
I pray thee heartily tell to me.
In mine own Country where I was born,
men call me Simon over-the-lee.

Simon, Simon, ſaid the good wife,
I wiſh thou may'ſt well brook thy Name:
The Outlaw was 'ware of her courteſy,
and rejoyced he had got ſuch a Dame.

Simon, wilt thou be my Man?
and good round wages I'll give thee;
I have as good a Ship of my own,
as any that ſails upon the ſea:

Anchors and planks thou ſhallt want none,
Maſts and Planks that are ſo long,
And if that thou ſo furniſh me,
ſaid Simon, nothing ſhall go wrong.

They plackt up Anchor, and away did ſail,
more of a day than two or three;
VVhen other caſt in their baited Hooks,
the bare Lines into the Sea caſt he.

It will be long, ſaid the Maſter then,
e'er this great Lubber do thrive at Sea;
He ſhall have no ſhare of our fiſh,
for in truth he is no part worthy.

O woe is me, ſaid Simon then,
This day that ever I came here!
I wiſh I were in Plumbton Park,
chaſing of the Fallow Deer.

For every clown laughs me to ſcorn,
and by me ſets nothing at all;
If I had them in Plumbton Park,
I would ſet as little by them all.

They pluck'd up Anchors and away did ſail,
more of a Day than two or three;
But Simon eſpyed a ſhip of war,
that ſail'd towards them vigouroufly.

O woe is me, ſaid the Maſter then,
this day that ever I was born;
For all the fiſh that we have got
is every bit loſt and forlorn!

For thoſe French Robbers on the Sea,
they will not ſpare of us one man,
But carry us to the Coaſt of France,
and lay us in a Priſon ſtrong.

But Simon ſaid, do not fear them,
neither, Maſter, take you care;
Give me my bent Bow in my Hand,
and never a Frenchman will I ſpare.

Hold thy Peace, thou long Lubber,
for thou art nought but brags and boaſt;
If I ſhould caſt you over board,
there's but a ſimple lubber loſt.

Simon grew angry at theſe words,
and ſo angry then was he;
Then he took his bent bow in his hand,
and in the ſhip-hatch goeth he.

Maſter, tye me to the maſt, he ſaid,
that at my mark I may ſtand fair,
And give me my bent bow in my hand,
and never a Frenchman will I ſpare.

He drew his Arrow to the Head,
and drew with might and main;
Andſtraight, in the twinkling of an Eye,
to the Frenchman's heart the Arrow gain.

The Frenchman fell down on the ſhip hatch,
and under the Hatches down below;
Another Frenchman that him eſpy'd.
the dead Corpſe into the Sea did throw.

O Maſter, looſe me from the Maſt, he ſaid,
and never a Frenchman will I ſpare
Then ſtrait they boarded the French Ship,
they lying all dead in their Sight;

They found within the Ship of war
twelve Thouſand Pounds in Money bright.
The one Half of the Ship, ſaid Simon then,
I'll give to my Dame and Children ſmall;

The other Half of my Ship I'll give
to you that are my Fellows all.
But now beſpoke the Maſter then,
for ſo, Simon, it ſhall not be,

For you have won it with your own Hands,
and the owner of it you muſt be.
It ſhall be ſo as I have ſaid,
and with this Gold for the oppreſt,
An Habitation I will build,
where they ſhall live in peace and reſt.

Printed and ſold by L. How, in Petticoat Lane.